

Rev. refs.

K-137

Blay's Range
Near Kennedyville
c. 1820

Blay's Range and Blay's Addition play an important part in the history of Shrewsbury Church. In 1710, after the first South Sassafras Parish Church had been constructed, Edward Blay gave two acres of Blay's Addition to the Vestry.¹ Ninety years later, in 1800, Blay's grandson William Blay Tilden devised to his son Charles:

"all the Church Plantation . . . Blay's Addition, Blay's Range, Ivingo and Stanaway . . . 415 acres . . . except four acres most convenient to Shrewsbury Church . . . "2

In 1809, Dr. Charles Tilden petitioned the Kent County Court to resurvey the property. This was done and is recorded in the land records. From that survey, it appears that Dr. Tilden built his house on Blay's Addition.³ The earlier generations had most likely resided on Blay's Range.

Typical of the first quarter of the 19th Century, Dr. Tilden's house possessed the same form and plan as Tolchester, Joseph Mitchell's house on the Bay. The largest deviation from the Mitchell house was the placement of the stair in the hall rather than in a separate appendage. When finished, it had a three bay, two room deep main block with a four bay two room long wing. Both facades were typically laid in Flemish bond. One of the outstanding features at Blay's Range is the use of a curtain wall between the two west gable chimneys. It stops short of the tops of the chimneys, giving it another feature which differs from the Mitchell house.

Dr. Charles Tilden was a local physician and planter. He was also a

member of Shrewsbury's vestry, as had been his father and great-grandfather. After his death the farm was purchased by Dr. William Gemmill, whose name appears on the 1860 map. In 1863 the farm was purchased by Charles Beaston who owned States Adventure as well.⁴

Early in the 20th Century, the house suffered a fire which destroyed the kitchen to such an extent that it was removed. Consequently, the existing wing is only half of its original size. About the same time the windows in the main house were replaced with narrower units and the remaining space was bricked in.

The present owner has lived on the farm for at least the last fifty years.

1. DeProspo, Katherine Myrick, A History of Shrewsbury Church, Wye Mills, MD: Chesapeake College Press, 1988.
2. Wills, Lib. 8, fol. 49.
3. Land Records, Lib. BC 6, fol. 447.
4. Land Records, Lib. JKH 3, fol. 649.

K-137
Blay's Range
Kennedyville
Private

1825

Blay's Range resembles Mitchell House (K-276) which was built in 1825. Both buildings have broad double chimneys in the gable and are two rooms deep. Interior trim has medallion corner blocks.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-137

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Blays Range

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Northeast of Kennedyville August 1980

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville ☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Richard Miller

Telephone #: (301) 348-5113

STREET & NUMBER

Blays Range

CITY, TOWN

Kennedyville ☒ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21645

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

Liber #: RAS 38

Folio #: 534

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED 50%	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Blay's Range is a brick building of two sections; one two and one-half storys, other two storys. The two and one-half story section has Flemish bond on front with American bond on side. There is a single $\frac{1}{4}$ " round tool mark in mortar on front only. Plain square brick tops the water table on front and rear of the two and one-half story section. Large double chimneys, flush with side of the two and one-half story section, are connected by a brick curtain. Unusual half brick holes in the upper part of the chimney wall may be old log holes required during construction of the wall.

Windows, front and rear of the two and one-half story section, have been made narrower and the sash changed to 2/2. Front and rear doors have also been changed. Dormer windows with 6/6 sash in the two and one-half story part appear to be original.

The two story section has brick laid in American bond. Different brick of better quality was used on the front than on sides and rear.

Interior woodwork is typical of first half 19th century with round medallion corner blocks.

The owner stated that a fire destroyed interior which was replaced.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-137

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	19th century	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
	2nd quarter	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Blay's Range closely resembles Mitchell House (K-276) which has a dating block of 1825. Both houses are two rooms deep with side-bay entrances and wide double chimneys in the gable. Interior window and door trim with round corner blocks is also similar. The buildings, probably contemporaries, are constructed in a form which is rather unusual in the Kent County country side being more commonly used for narrow, deep city lots.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

K-137

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Karl Miller

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

September, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

1501375104

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Kennedyville</u> VICINITY <u>Harmory Corner</u> STREET NO. <u>Rt 213 - 1/2 mi. E. of Rt 298</u> ORIGINAL OWNER <u>Edward Blay</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>M-Mrs Ralph E. Miller</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2 1/2</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-137</u>	
2. NAME <u>Blays Range</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>19th Century</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>No</u> <p> no detail <u>Blays Range</u> is reported to have been built in 1727, but that <u>no detail</u> of that date remains, since a <u>a</u> fire destroyed the interior at the turn of this century. It is a 2 1/2 story brick structure, 3 bays long and 2 bays deep with a stepped water table, flat brick arches above the windows and a door located on the east side of the south facade. ^{Two chimneys are located on west gable.} East of the main dwelling is a smaller 2 story, 2 bay long, brick wing with a modern lean-to off the north side. of interest is an area beside the north door, now bricked-up, which probably was a window, the likes of which is found in the McDaniels House near Still pond, and the rear door in Rose Hill, near Chestertown, evidently these were the only light for small rooms, not lighted by a transom above the door. </p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>good</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>W. P. A. Guide 1960 p. 265</u>		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept 18, 1968</u>	

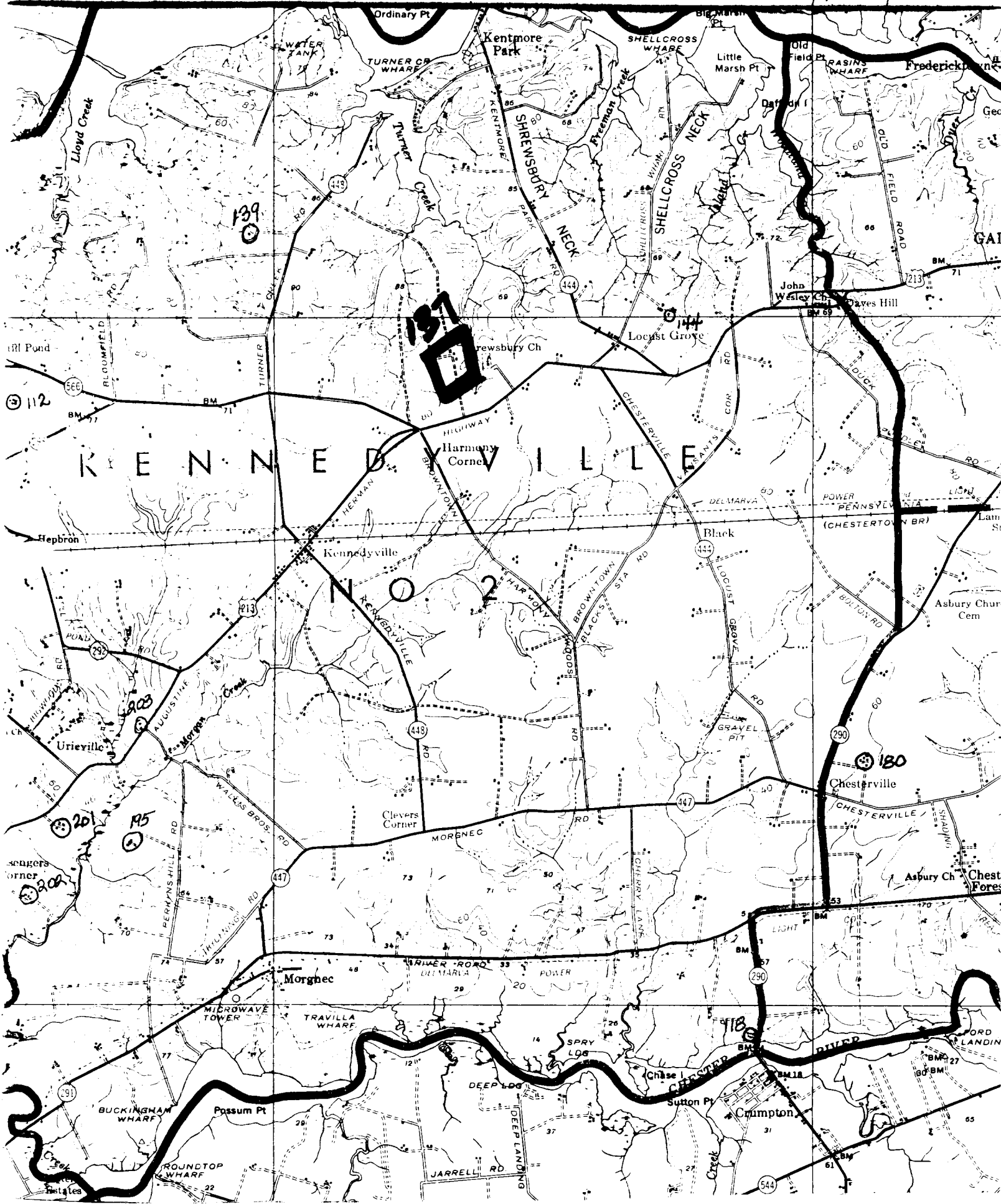
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

Blay's Range is reputed to have been built in 1727, but no detail of that date remains, since a fire destroyed the interior at the turn of this century.

It is a two-and-one-half story brick structure, three bays long and two bays deep with a stepped water table, flat brick arches above the windows and a door located on the east side of the south facade. Twin chimneys are located on the west gable. East of the main dwelling is a smaller two story, two bay long, brick wing with a modern leanto off the north side.

Of interest is an area beside the north door, now bricked up, which probably was a window, the likes of which is found in the McDanolds House near Stillpond, and the rear door in Rose Hill, near Chestertown; evidently these were the only light for small rooms, not lighted by a transom above the door.

K-137





K-137

Blair Lang

MAT-K137

Rt 213-

Kennedysville Md.

South facade

C. Ungstrom

Aug 1927